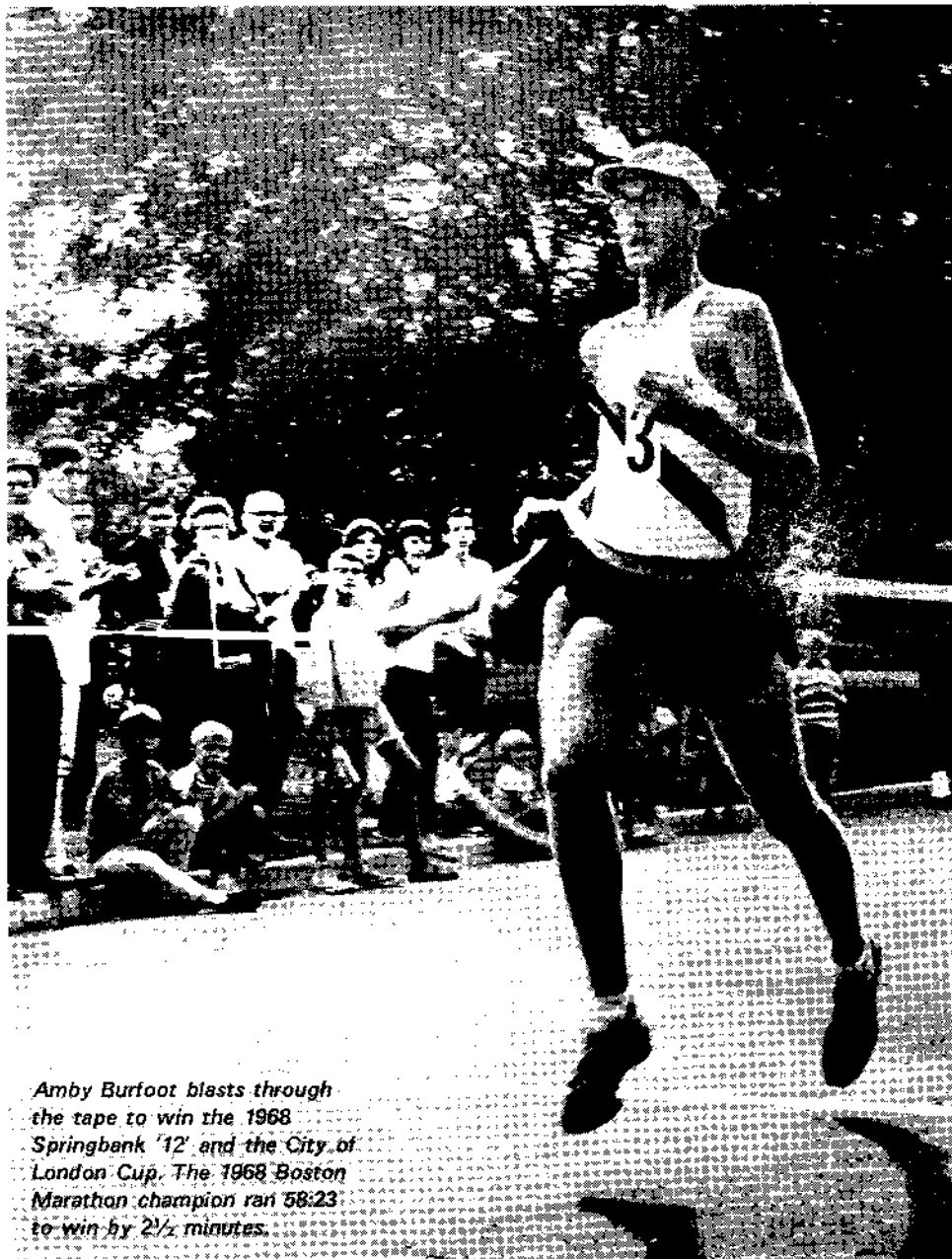


SPRINGBANK Road Races '69

Saturday, September 13 — London, Ontario



Amby Burfoot blasts through the tape to win the 1968 Springbank '12' and the City of London Cup. The 1968 Boston Marathon champion ran 58:23 to win by 2½ minutes.

Amby Burfoot

IT'S AMBY OVER ANDY IN SPRINGBANK '12'

by Dave Prokop

London, September 14, 1968 — Two of North America's most titled marathon runners, Ambrose Burfoot of Groton Long Pont, Conn., and Andy Boychuk of Sarnia, Ont., hooked up in an exciting head-to-head struggle here today in the featured 12-mile race at the first annual Springbank Road Races. The result was a clear cut, though by no means easy, victory for Burfoot, the 1968 Boston Marathon champion, as he clocked 58:23.0 to 60:54.0 for Boychuk, marathon winner in the 1967 Pan-American Games.

Accepting the City of London Cup for his victory, the tall, slender American was a gracious winner. "I understand Andy had a hard workout yesterday and was tired. He's concentrating on the Olympics and wasn't really pointing for this race."

Boychuk, hollow-cheeked, with a chiseled body of bone and sinew, did indeed look more trained down than rested up. But he would make no excuses for his defeat. "He's a very good boy," he said of Burfoot, "and today he ran a much better race than I did."

Boychuk, 27, a mechanical engineer with the Shell Oil Company in Sarnia (although he runs for the powerful Toronto Olympic Club) will represent Canada in the Olympic marathon at Mexico City next month. He leaves with the Canadian team tomorrow for Flagstaff, Arizona where the team will conduct its altitude training before moving on to Mexico City itself.

Burfoot's hopes of making the United States Olympic team in the marathon were sabotaged by a leg injury he sustained this summer in attempting the steeplechase for the first time. Amby—he prefers that to Ambrose—attended the altitude camp for U.S. Olympic marathon hopefuls at Alamosa, Colorado. But in the U.S. Olympic marathon trial he had to drop out after 15½ miles.

"I'm still not in very good shape," Amby said today, "but I seem to be running very well. As a matter of fact, I don't think I've ever run better than I did here today."

The 6'1", 140-pound graduate of Wesleyan University in Connecticut (he's now an elementary schoolteacher) followed Boychuk's torrid pace for the first 6½ miles, opened a lead in the third lap as Boychuk slowed and stormed home with the fastest lap of all for his victory. The course is 708 yards short of 12 miles. Amby's winning time — 58:23 — would convert to approximately 60:20 for 12 miles. Since only three Americans have ever covered 12 miles within an hour on the track, Amby's performance — on a course that has two significant uphill sections per lap plus a very sharp, and consequently slow, hairpin turn — was superb running. And his fast finish indicated he could have turned in an even faster time if forced to do so.

The 12 was one of four races on the inaugural program at Springbank. The Open 4½ mile race was dominated by the Toronto Olympic Club which paced runners first, second, third, fourth and sixth. Ian Wainwright, a transplanted Englishman, was the winner in 21:43.0. He was followed across the line by teammates Bob Moore, Dave Smith and Dave Knox. Six-time Canadian marathon champion Gord Dickson of the Hamilton Athletic Club was fifth and Paul Pearson of the Toronto Olympic Club sixth.

Wainwright, Moore (a fellow Englishman) and Smith were in relatively close company throughout the race. Wainwright opened a lead at about halfway. But his teammates pulled him back and then actually started to leave him behind as they went up the incline on the Byron curve of the course, less than a mile from the finish line.

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